MEDIA RELEASE

OVER 200 INDUSTRY PRACTITIONERS TO MENTOR POLYTECHNIC STUDENTS FROM YEAR 1

New Industry Mentors’ Network programme gives students an early head start in their career planning

*Singapore, 14 December 2015* – First-year polytechnic students have been linked up with industry professionals to gain access to career advice and industry networking right from Year 1 through a new Industry Mentors’ Network (IMN) programme, initiated by Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP).

In line with SkillsFuture, where we seek to provide greater opportunities for Education and Career Guidance (ECG), the IMN programme is set to get students to think about career aspirations early in their polytechnic education. Apart from NP, Singapore Polytechnic (SP) and Temasek Polytechnic (TP) will also be adopting the IMN programme.

Students will receive early advice from their mentors on what it takes for them to achieve their career goals and how to chart their career roadmaps. In addition, they can tap the mentors’ expertise and network for professional learning opportunities.

While industry mentorship is not new to polytechnic students, it is usually extended to students in their final year as part of their internship stint. This is the first time polytechnic students are given industry mentorship, anchored on career guidance, from their first year and throughout their three years of study in the polytechnic.

To date, over 200 industry mentors from more than 20 companies ranging from multinationals to local enterprises (see Annex A) have come on board the IMN programme. The companies signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the participating polytechnics on 14 December 2015 to launch this initiative at an event witnessed by Associate Professor Dr Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education & Ministry of Social and Family Development.

The pilot group of 850 participants of the IMN programme includes first-year NP students from these eight diploma courses - Accountancy, Advertising & Public Relations, Biomedical Engineering, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Information technology, Real Estate Business and Marine & Offshore Technology. They have each been assigned an industry mentor in a field that matches their career interests. These industry mentors are high achieving professionals selected by their companies. Each mentor will be advisor to about three to four students.
The IMN’s modus operandi hinges on face-to-face interactions between students and their mentors. Where possible, students will be given the opportunity to shadow their mentors at work, or attend company or industry networking functions. Such early exposure will enable students to have a holistic appreciation of the job as well as the working environment and culture. The mentors will also share realistic perspectives of the job prerequisites, career prospects and developmental opportunities. All this will help the students shape their career plans and take the necessary steps to realise their goals.

Career guidance aside, it is also hoped that the IMN will play a key role in the students’ character development.

“Mentoring is a powerful tool. Through supportive relationships with their mentors, our students will learn from these role models not just about what their dream job entails but also about professional ethics and work ethos that make them successful,” said Mr Clarence Ti, Principal of Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

Echoing this view, Ms Marianne Lim, Head of Human Resource Singapore for Barclays, which is one of the corporate partners of the IMN, said: “We are delighted to play mentor to students who are likely to join our industry in the future. In recruiting fresh polytechnic graduates, we look beyond their academic results. We hire people with potential, aptitude and drive, characteristics that are applicable across industries and career paths. Therefore we hope to guide our mentees in developing some of these core attributes which are valued by employers.”

Participating polytechnics plan to roll out the IMN programme progressively next year.

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Annex A

Corporate Partners for NP’s Industry Mentors’ Network Programme

1. Accenture
2. Algo Access Pte Ltd
3. Barclays
4. CrimsonLogic Pte Ltd
5. Croda
6. Engineering Computer Services (S) Pte Ltd
7. Ernst & Young
8. Inspire-Tech Pte Ltd
9. Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology
10. JTC Corporation
11. Lonza Biologics
12. Mechem Consultancy Services Pte Ltd
13. Medtronic
14. National Trade Union Congress
15. Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP
16. PSA International Pte Ltd
17. PSA Marine (Pte) Ltd
18. RSM Chio Lim LLP
19. SecureAge
20. SembCorp
21. Setsco Services Pte Ltd
22. Singapore Infocomm Technology Federation
23. SMITECH (Asia) Pte Ltd
24. Terasaki Electric Co. (F.E.) Pte Ltd
25. TÜV SÜD PSB Pte Ltd
26. V-KEY Pte Ltd
27. Xcellink Pte Ltd